

All animal experimentation was performed following the National Institutes of Health (USA), Sunnybrook and Women College Health Science Center and Lorus Therapeutics Inc. Animal Care and Use guidelines.

Evaluation of antitumor activity

Tumor volume was estimated by caliper measurements, using the formula: length \times width \times height / 2⁶. The efficacy of drug treatment was evaluated based on the following calculations: (1) tumor growth inhibition (T/C), calculated as a percentage of the mean tumor volume of drug-treated (T) versus control (C) groups: $T/C (\%) = (\text{mean tumor volume of drug-treated group} / \text{mean tumor volume of control}) \times 100$; the optimal value, being the minimal T/C ratio which reflects the maximal tumor growth inhibition achieved⁷; (2) tumor growth delay (T-C), defined as the difference in time for drug-treated (T) and control (C) tumors to reach a given volume (300 mm³); and (3) The final tumor weight (T.W.), determined by the mass of tumor tissue surgically excised from the animal on the last day of the experiment. The percentage of inhibition (%) = (mean tumor weight of controls - mean tumor weight of drug-treated group) / mean tumor weight of controls \times 100. Statistical analyses, of the differences in tumor weight between treatment groups, were carried out by the Biostatistical Consulting Unit of the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada). A *p* value of ≤ 0.05 was considered to be statistically significant.